



**1034<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**

**8:00PM Wednesday, May 22, 2002**

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval St. at 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. San Francisco

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**Ken Barr  
Numismatic Potpourri**

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**Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner**

Please join us Wednesday, May 22, 2002 to hear *Ken Barr* tell us about all sorts of things we didn't know in numismatics!

**1033<sup>rd</sup> meeting- Philippine Numismatics *Phil Nordin***  
(reviewed by *Herb Miles*)

Our Philippine scholar *Phil Nordin* gave us a fascinating multiple slide presentation on coins, currency, shells, flora, fauna, and all things Filipino during our speaker's hour. The Philippines covers an extensive area, more than 4,000 islands, with a coastline in total larger than that of the United States. Many dialects are spoken and there are many different races populating the various islands.

The islands extend from rain forest to lush tropical vegetation. Geckos, beautiful butterflies, long coral beaches, shells of many shapes and sizes, and Imelda's shoes are all plentiful. Coin collecting is not extensive, but the people do collect shells passionately.

The first coin definitively from the Philippines is the lead "Baria", a crude piece with geometric symbols (I think!). But the Spanish brought their coins during the conquest years and after that produced coins especially for the islands, pesos and centimos and the like. There are also gold "piloncitos".

These were the circulating medium until the Spanish American War of 1898. After that time, the United States influenced coinage although Philippine leader Aguinaldo produced coins and paper money during the *Philippine Uprising or Insurrection*.

Also, Figueroa designed patterns possibly based on a profile of his daughter, "Blanca."

After the Spanish American War, the United States exerted such influence in the islands that even small size banknotes were tested in 1916 prior to their introduction in the states.

There are many ways to collect Philippine numismatics, guerilla notes (issued during World War II

by the rebels), Japanese invasion currency, victory notes, buttons and pinbacks, commemoratives relating to U.S./Philippine cooperation, modern commemoratives, Franklin Mint items, etc. Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda issued a series of coins with conjoined busts of visiting heads of state or foreign dignitaries, and even Corazon Aquino issued a "People Power" silver coin after she came to power.

### **June Banquet**

Each June the regular meeting of the PCNS is replaced with a Saturday evening banquet. This year the event will be at the Gold Mirror Italian Restaurant at the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Taraval Streets in San Francisco on June 29<sup>th</sup>. A no-host bar at 6:00PM will be followed by dinner at 7:00PM. The cost is \$30 with a choice of veal parmigiana, prime rib, baked chicken or fish of the day. Payment must be received by June 15 to ensure your reservation. Check may be made out to "PCNS" and sent to the address on the front page of this bulletin.

### **Exhibits (compiled by *Herb Miles*)**

*Jack Free* brought three 64 millimeter medals from San Diego's Panama California Exposition, a sister expo to the Panama Pacific International Exposition of San Francisco. Two of Jack's medals featured a ship making its way through the newly opened canal; the other shows Balboa Park (Exposition Park). Large numerals 1915 appear on the reverse of each.

*Mark Wm Clark* brought a 20 Euro note recently received from overseas, and a series of old PCNS Bulletins from about 1948 through 1952. Many famous numismatic names and surprising events were chronicled in these fascinating volumes.

*Phil Nordin* exhibited his CSNA Speaker's medal garnered at the Southern California Symposium in March for his topic Philippine Numismatics. Phil noted that both he and Sarah received Speaker's medals and that CSNA mentioned that it was the first time that a husband

and wife team had presented two different programs at a Symposium.

*Sarah Nordin* exhibited her own CSNA Speaker's medal, but Phil did all the talking!

*Larry Reppeau* brought two books on Philippine coins by Aldo Basso, the first one autographed by Mr. Basso but the second had not been signed prior to Alto's death, unfortunately.

*Michael Wehner* brought two interesting items, a one dollar bill with the countermark, "www.wheresgeorge.com", a website used for tracking and informing finders of the places such inscribed money had been as well as for selling memorabilia, and a Pope John Paul II Vatican gold-plated medal celebrating the Pope's visit to San Francisco. By the way, Michael's one-dollar bill had once been in a Spokane, WA stripper's G-string!!

*Gordon Donnell* exhibited a scrip \$10 note from the Tenino, Washington area, famous for its wooden money, his recently acquired Panama Pacific half dollar, and a gold 1907 \$5 piece, a recent raffle prize.

*Ken Takahashi* brought 5 more of his trophies from prior coin show exhibits, a box of Readers' Digest sweepstakes tokens, a silver round with Gobrecht's Seated Liberty obverse and Flying Eagle reverse, a slabbed 1943 S Jefferson Nickel, and a cob 8 reales with date on both sides.

*Cal Rogers* shared his recently acquired Tibetan piece with Sun & Moon, perhaps meaning that Cal's other pieces with two "dots" are really two suns, a Japanese coin with Gin countermark, (gin meaning silver), a Chinese dragon dollar with chops, and a chopped Tibetan coin!!

## **RAFFLE** (with a banking theme)

A Locomotive Bank from the Bank of the Orient to *Gordon Donnell*.

A Miniature Beer Can Bank from the Hibernia Bank to *Elliot Wehner*.

A Barrel Dime Bank stating “Be Thrifty and Save A Dime Daily” to *Jack Free*.

A Token Bank celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Alameda Naval Air Station’s Credit Union to *Gordon Donnell*.

A Paper Savings Bank from the Citizens Federal Savings & Loan of San Francisco to *Elliot Wehner*.

A 1961 Bank Token from San Francisco’s Bank of Trade to *Jack Free*.

A Book Bank from the United Insurance Company of America (with Key) to *Gordon Donnell*.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> CSNA/PCNS educational symposium**

The Society will again host the Northern California CSNA educational symposium. The date will be Saturday October 5, 2002 and the location will be the same as last year, Fort Mason in San Francisco. Please mark this on your calendars and spread the word!

### **Congratulations!**

Three of our distinguished members have been honored for Numismatic Excellence by the American Numismatic Association. This new award has been developed under the auspices of *Dr Walter Ostromecki* to recognize individuals who perform grassroots services for the benefit of coin clubs and numismatic societies. Congratulations to *Steve Huston, Dr Paul Holtzman and Frank Strazzarino*. On behalf of the ANA, each was presented a nice certificate by *Gordon Donnell*.

### **PCNS historical trivia**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary banquet in June 1948 was \$3.50 per plate at the El Jardin Restaurant on California Street. This included "tax, tip, wine and ladies' corsages". The price may have gone up but the camaraderie is still the same.

## California Safety Society Award Medal Michael Wehner



The US Bureau of Mines sponsored a popular exhibit at the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exhibition to accident prevention, first aid and search and rescue techniques. The individuals in charge of the exhibit, along with several insurance inspectors, got together for a meeting at the San Francisco Hauf Brau Restaurant. Although delayed by the first world war, this meeting eventually led to the organization of the "California Safety Society" in 1921. In 1935, this Society became the San Francisco chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers, the world's oldest and largest organization of safety professionals.

An annual first aid contest was one of the ways that the California Safety Society promoted its craft. This gilt medal, awarded at the eighth annual contest in 1930, features a man carrying an injured man on a stretcher, superimposed over a large cross. The fine print on the reverse indicates that it was locally made by the Whitehead and Hoag Company in San Francisco.



PCNS 1000<sup>th</sup> meeting medals are still available. The set includes both a proof silver and an antiqued bronze specimen and is only \$30 plus postage and insurance. A reminder of the Society's long and honorable history.